DOCUMENTS FOR NOTICE OF REMOVAL

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Masle 3:16-cv-01981-L Document 1-5 Filed 07/07/16 Page 2 of 34 PageID 18 Filed 07/07/16 Page 2 of 34 PageID 18

	DC-16-059	44 Freeney Anita
CAUSE N	1O	<u></u>
MATTHEW HIGGINS	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
VS.	§	
	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a	§	
ROAD STAR TRUCKING and	§	
MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS	§	
	§	J-191ST
Defendants.	§	JUDICIAL DISTRICT

<u>PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, JURY DEMAND,</u> REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE, AND RULE 193.7 NOTICE

COMES NOW, MATTHEW HIGGINS, Plaintiff in the above-styled and numbered cause of action complaining of Defendants ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a ROAD STAR TRUCKING and MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS and in support thereof would show unto this Honorable Court the following:

I. DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

1.1 Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.1 and 190.4 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, discovery is intended in this lawsuit to be conducted under Level 3.

II. CLAIM FOR RELIEF

2.1 Plaintiff seeks monetary relief over \$200,000 but no more than \$1,000,000.00.

III. PARTIES

- 3.1 Matthew Higgins ("Plaintiff Higgins") is a resident of Dallas County, Texas.
- 3.2 <u>Road Star Carrier, Inc. d/b/a Road Star Trucking ("Defendant Road Star")</u> is a foreign limited liability company authorized to do business in the State of Texas. This action

arises out of a wreck involving a truck driver who was driving on behalf of Defendant Road Star, a motor carrier with its principal office in Canada; therefore, service upon Defendant Road Star may be made pursuant to Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code §§ 17.061 - 17.069. Process should be served on Defendant Road Star by serving Tryon D. Lewis, Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, at 125 E. 11th St., Austin, Texas, 78701-2483, to be forwarded to Rob Dhanoa, 8201 Lawson Road, Milton, Ontario L9T 5E5.

3.3 <u>Miroslaw Skoczylas</u> ("Defendant Skoczylas"), an individual, may be served with process by serving Tryon D. Lewis, Chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission, at 125 E. 11th St., Austin, Texas, 78701-2483, to be forwarded to at his residence at 21 Jacob Dr, Whitby, Ontario L1P 1A9.

IV. JURISDICTION and VENUE

- 4.1 This Court has jurisdiction in this cause since the damages to Plaintiff Higgins is within the jurisdictional limits of this Court.
- 4.2 All or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in Dallas County. Therefore, venue is proper pursuant to §15.001 and §15.002(a)(1) of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code. Additionally, the facts show that the convenience of the parties and the witnesses and the interest of justice would be best served in Gonzales County.
 - 4.3 All conditions precedent have occurred.
 - 4.4 Nothing Plaintiff Higgins did, caused or contributed to this occurrence.

V. FACTS

5.1 On or about March 16, 2016, Defendant Skoczylas was driving westbound on IH 30, in Dallas County, Texas. Defendant Skoczylas failed to control the speed of his tractor trailer

and rear-ended Plaintiff Higgins' vehicle. The collision caused Plaintiff Higgins to collide with a vehicle driven by non-party Kerrie Winn, then causing non-party Kerrie Winn to collide with the vehicle of non-party William Alexander Glover. Defendant Skoczylas was operating a tractor trailer in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant Road Star. The collision occurred with tremendous force, proximately causing Plaintiff Higgins to suffer severe, excruciating, and painful personal injuries.

5.2 Defendant Road Star is a motor carrier that is regulated by the US Department of Transportation and is subject to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. Defendant Road Star's US DOT number is 1094105.

VI. NEGLIGENCE OF DEFENDANT ROAD STAR

- 6.1 At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Road Star was the owner of the tractor and trailer operated and hauled by Defendant Skoczylas. Further, pursuant to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Regulations, Defendant Skoczylas was considered a statutory employee of Defendant Road Star since he was operating an 18-wheeler for the benefit of Defendant Road Star. Additionally, Defendant Skoczylas was operating the 18-wheeler under Defendant Road Star's operating authority and under Defendant Road Star's DOT number 1094105. Accordingly, Defendant Road Star is liable for the negligence of its statutory employee Defendant Skoczylas under the theory of *respondeat superior*.
- 6.2 The independent conduct of Defendant Road Star constitutes negligence as that term is known in law. Such negligent acts or omission include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. allowing Defendant Skoczylas to operate its vehicle even though it knew or should have known he was a reckless or incompetent driver;

- b. retaining Defendant Skoczylas to operate its vehicle even though it knew or should have known he was a reckless or incompetent driver;
- c. entrusting a vehicle to Defendant Skoczylas even though it knew or should have known he was a reckless or incompetent driver;
- d. failing to properly train Defendant Skoczylas in the safe operation of a motor vehicle;
- e. failing to properly supervise Defendant Skoczylas's driving activities;
- f. failing to establish and enforce safety rules and regulations;
- g. failing to properly educate, instruct, and supervise the performance of Defendant Skoczylas duties;
- h. failing to adequately train, educate, or provide instructions and orders to Defendant Skoczylas;
- i. failing to provide proper safety manuals and instructions to employees responsible for safety; and
- j. failing to enforce and ensure compliance of established safety and operational rules and regulations for persons operating its equipment.

One, some, or all of the foregoing acts and/or omissions on the part of Defendant Road Star constituted negligence and such negligence was a proximate cause of the occurrence of Plaintiff Higgins' injuries and damages.

VII. NEGLIGENCE OF DEFENDANT SKOCZYLAS

7.1 The collision made the basis of this lawsuit resulted from the improper conduct of Defendant Skoczylas. The conduct of Defendant Skoczylas constituted negligence as that term is understood in law and such negligent conduct was a proximate cause of the occurrence, injuries and damages to Plaintiff Higgins made the basis of this suit. Defendant Skoczylas' negligent actions or omissions include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following non-exclusive particulars:

- a. failing to control the operation of his vehicle;
- b. failing to avoid the incident in question;
- c. failing to keep a proper look out;
- d. failing to apply the brakes properly and/or timely in violation of Texas Transportation Code §547.408)(a)(3);
- e. failing to operate his vehicle in a safe manner;
- f. failing to operate his vehicle as a person of ordinary prudence would have in the same or similar circumstance; and/or
- g. other acts of negligence and negligence per se.

One, some, or all of the foregoing acts and/or omissions on the part of Defendant Skoczylas constituted negligence and such negligence was a proximate cause of the occurrence of Plaintiff Higgins' injuries and damages.

VIII. DAMAGES

- 8.1 As a result of the incident made the basis of this lawsuit described in the preceding paragraphs and the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff Higgins sustained significant injuries and damages in the past and will, in reasonable probability, sustain these damages in the future.
- 8.2 Plaintiff Higgins respectfully requests that the trier of fact determine the amount of his damages and losses that he has incurred in the past and will reasonably incur in the future, as well as the monetary value of these damages, which include, but are not limited to:
 - a. past and future physical pain and suffering and mental anguish;
 - b. past and future disfigurement;
 - c. past and future physical impairment;
 - d. past and future medical care expenses;

- e. past and future loss of earning capacity;
- f. past and future household services;
- g. past and future out-of-pocket economic losses.
- 8.3 Because of all of the above and foregoing, Plaintiff Higgins has suffered actual damages in excess of the minimum jurisdictional limits of the Court for which damages Plaintiff Higgins now brings suit.
- 8.4 Plaintiff Higgins seeks both prejudgment and post judgment interest as allowed by law, for all costs of court, and all other relief, both in law and in equity, to which he may be entitled.

IX. JURY DEMAND

9.1 Pursuant to Rule 216 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Higgins respectfully requests and demands a trial by jury. The appropriate jury fee is tendered with the filing of this pleading.

X. REQUESTS FOR DISCLOSURE

10.1 Pursuant to Rule 194, request is made that Defendants disclose, within fifty (50) days of service of this request, the information or material described in Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194.2 (a)-(l). Defendants must serve a written response to this Requests for Disclosure on Plaintiff Higgins within fifty (50) days after the service of this request. Failure to timely respond shall constitute an abuse of discovery pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 215.

XI. CERTIFICATE OF WRITTEN DISCOVERY

11.1 Plaintiff Higgins has served contemporaneously with this petition Requests for Disclosure to Defendants.

XII. RULE 193.7 NOTICE

12.1 Pursuant to Rule 193.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Higgins hereby gives actual notice to Defendants that any and all documents produced may be used against the Defendants producing the document at any pretrial proceeding and/or at the trial of this matter without the necessity of authenticating the documents.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff Higgins prays that Defendants be cited in terms of law to appear and answer herein, that upon final trial and hearing hereof, that Plaintiff Higgins recovers damages in accordance with the evidence, that Plaintiff Higgins recovers costs of court herein expended, that Plaintiff Higgins recovers interest to which Plaintiff Higgins is justly entitled under the law, and for such other further relief, both general and special, both in law and in equity, to which Plaintiff Higgins may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM S. ADLER & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Frank W. Robertson_

FRANK W. ROBERTSON

State Bar No. 24033129

frobertson@jimadler.com

MICHAEL GOMEZ

State Bar No. 24029578

mgomez@iimadler.com

Bank of America

Facsimile:

12605 East Freeway, Suite 400

Houston, Texas 77015

Telephone: (713) 335-1032

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

(713) 335-1018

Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Document 1-5, Filed 07/07/16, Page 9 of 34 PageID 25

	VED YOU MUST FURNISH ONE (1) COPY OF WO (2) COPIES OF THE PLEADING PER PART	
CASE NUMBER:	CURRENT COURT:	—————————————————————————————————————
TYPE OF INSTRUMENT TO BE SERVE	D (See Reverse For Types): Plaintiff's Original Per	tition
FILE DATE OF MOTION:	Month/ Day/ Year	
SERVICE TO BE ISSUED ON (Please List	Month/ Day/ Year t Exactly As The Name Appears In The Pleading	To Be Served):
1. NAME: Road Star Carrier, Inc. d/b.	/a Road Star Trucking	
ADDRESS: 8201 Lawson Road, Mil	lton, Ontario L9T 5E5	
AGENT, (if applicable): Rob Dhanoa		
TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE IS	SUED (see reverse for specific type): citation	
	CONSTABLE Authorized Person to Pick-up: CERTIFIED MAIL COURTHOUSE DOOR, or NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE:	Phone:
X OTHER, explain Please mail to J	im S. Adler & Assoc., 12605 East Freewy, St	e. 400, Houston, Texas 77015
2. NAME: Miroslaw Skoczylas	ontario L1P 1A9	
	mano Bit 1119	
TYPE OF SERVICE/PROCESS TO BE IS		
SERVICE BY (check one): ATTORNEY PICK-UP CIVIL PROCESS SERVER - Phone: MAIL PUBLICATION: Type of Publication:	CONSTABLE Authorized Person to Pick-up: CERTIFIED MAIL COURTHOUSE DOOR, or	
	NEWSPAPER OF YOUR CHOICE: im S. Adler & Assoc., 12605 East Freewy, St	te. 400, Houston, Texas 77015
ATTORNEY (OR ATTORNEY'S AGENT) REQUESTING SERVICE:	
NAME: Frank W. Robertson	·	AR NO./ID NO. <u>24033129</u>
MAILING ADDRESS: 12605 East Freew	vay, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77015	
PHONE NUMBER: 713 335-10		335-1018 fax number
EMAIL ADDRESS: frobertson@jimadle	•	FYHIRIT 2

Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Document 1-5 Filed 07/07/16 Page 10 of 34 PageID 26 CIVIL CASE INFORMATION SHEET

CAUSE NUMBER (FOR CLERK USE ONLY):	COURT (FOR CLERK USE ONLY):
	COURT (I OR CEERIN CDE OTIEI)

\mathtt{STYLED} MATTHEW HIGGINS V. ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING AND MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS

(e.g., John Smith v. All American Insurance Co; In re Mary Ann Jones; In the Matter of the Estate of George Jackson)

A civil case information sheet must be completed and submitted when an original petition or application is filed to initiate a new civil, family law, probate, or mental health case or when a post-judgment petition for modification or motion for enforcement is filed in a family law case. The information should be the best available at the time of filing.

the time of filing.					
1. Contact information for personal	on completing case information shee	t: Names of parties in c	ease:		or entity completing sheet is:
Name: Frank W. Robertson	Email: frobertson@jimadler	.co Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(Matthew Higgs	,	Pro Se	ey for Plaintiff/Petitioner Plaintiff/Petitioner V-D Agency
Address:	m				
12605 E. Fwy #400	Telephone:			Additiona	al Parties in Child Support Case:
City/State/Zip:	713-335-1032	Defendant(s)/Respond	lent(s):	Custodial	Parent:
Houston, Texas 77015		Roas Star Carr	ier, Inc.	Non-Cust	odial Parent:
Signature.	713-335-1018	d/b/a Roas Star		Presumed	Father:
1/1/1/1/	State Bar No:	Miroslaw Skoo	Miroslaw Skoczylas —		
May M.	24033 129				
		[Attach additional page as ne	cessary to list all parties]		
2. Indicate case type, or identify	the most important issue in the case	(select only 1):			
	Civil			Fam	ily Law
Contract	Injury or Damage	Real Property	Marriage Relati	ionship	Post-judgment Actions (non-Title IV-D)
Debt/Contract		Eminent Domain/	Annulment	Оложр	Enforcement
Consumer/DTPA	Construction	Condemnation	Declare Marria	ige Void	Modification—Custody
Debt/Contract Fraud/Misrepresentation	☐ Defamation Malpractice	Partition Quiet Title	Divorce With Childr	en l	Modification—Other Title IV-D
Other Debt/Contract:		Trespass to Try Title	■No Children		Enforcement/Modification
F 7	Legal	Other Property:			Paternity
Foreclosure Home Equity—Expedited	☐Medical ☐Other Professional	-			Reciprocals (UIFSA) Support Order
Other Foreclosure	Liability:	Blatte Glatt			
Franchise	Motor Vehicle Accident	Related to Criminal Matters	Other Family	Law	Parent-Child Relationship
Insurance Landlord/Tenant	Premises Product Liability	Expunction	Enforce Foreig		Adoption/Adoption with
Non-Competition	Ashestos/Silica	Judgment Nisi	Judgment		Termination
Partnership	Other Froduct Liability	Non-Disclosure Seizure/Forfeiture	Habeas Corpu Name Change		Child Protection Child Support
Other Contract:	List Product:	Writ of Habeas Corpus—	Protective Ord	ler	Custody or Visitation
	Other Injury or Damage:	Pre-indictment	Removal of D	isabilities	Gestational Parenting
	-	Other:	of Minority Other:		Grandparent Access Paternity/Parentage
Employment	Other Ci	vil			Termination of Parental
Discrimination		Lawyer Discipline	1		Rights
Retaliation	Antitrust/Unfair	Perpetuate Testimony			Other Parent-Child:
Termination Workers' Compensation	Competition Code Violations	Securities/Stock Tortious Interference			4. .h
Other Employment:	Foreign Judgment	Other:			
	Intellectual Property				
Tax		Probate & M			
Tax Appraisal	Probate/Wills/Intestate Administrat	ion	Guardianship—Adu		
Tax Delinquency Other Tax	Dependent Administration Independent Administration	iii ii]Guardianship—Min]Mental Health	or	
Other 1ax	Other Estate Proceedings		Other:		
3. Indicate procedure or remedy, if applicable (may select more than 1): Appeal from Municipal or Justice Court Declaratory Judgment Prejudgment Remedy					
Appeal from Municipal or Just Arbitration-related	Garnishme			tive Order	nedy
Attachment	Interpleade		Recei	ver	
Bill of Review	License		Seque		-inin- Orden/I-in- 4
Certiorari Mandamus Class Action Post-judgment			Turno		aining Order/Injunction
					EXHIBIT 3

Less than \$100,000 and non-monetary relief

Over \$100,000 but not more than \$200,000

Over \$200,000 but not more than \$1,000,000

Over \$1,000,000

Rev 2/13

07/07/16

FILED
DALLAS COUNTY
5/17/2016 2:45:15 PM
FELICIA PITRE
DISTRICT CLERK

FELICIA PITRE DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK

NINA MOUNTIQUE CHIEF DEPUTY

CAUSE NO. DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS

VS.

ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, et al

191st District Court

ENTER DEMAND FOR JURY

JURY FEE PAID BY: MATTHEW HIGGINS

FEE PAID: \$40.00

600 COMMERCE STREET DALLAS, TEXAS 75202 (214) 653-7261 FAX (214)653-7781 E-mail: Felicia.Pitre@dallascounty.org Web site: http://www.dallascounty.org/distclerk/index.html

FORM NO. 353-4—CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

MAIL ATTY (COH)

ROAD STAR CARRIER INC D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING To:

BY SERVING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE HIGHWAY AND

PUBLIC TRANSPIRATION COMMISSION

125 E 11TH STREET **AUSTIN, TX 78701-2483** No.: DC-16-05944

CITATION

MATTHEW HIGGINS VS. ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, ET AL

ISSUED ON THIS THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2016

> **FELICIA PITRE** Clerk District Courts, Dallas County, Texas

By ARIEANA BAHENA, Deputy

Attorney for: Plaintiff FRANK W ROBERTSON JIM S ADLER & ASSOCIATES 12605 EAST FREEWAY **SUITE 400 HOUSTON TX 77015** 713-335-1032

GREETINGS:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Your answer should be addressed to the clerk of the 191st District Court at 600 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75202.

Said PLAINTIFF being MATTHEW HIGGINS

Filed in said Court 17th day of May, 2016 against

ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a ROAD STAR TRUCKING and MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS

For suit, said suit being numbered DC-16-05944 the nature of which demand is as follows:

Suit On MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT etc.

as shown on said petition REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE, a copy of which accompanies this citation. If this citation is not served, it shall be returned unexecuted.

WITNESS: FELICIA PITRE, Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County Texas.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court at office on this the 23rd day of May, 2016

ATTEST: FELICIA PITRE

Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County, Texas

DALLAS COUNTY CONSTANT TEES NOT

EXHIBIT 5

OFFICER'S RETURN FOR INDIVIDUALS

Cause No. DC-16-05944 Court No: 191st District Court Style: MATTHEW HIGGINS ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, et al Received this Citation the _____day of _____, 20 __at ____o'clock. Executed at _____, within the County of _____, State of _____, on the _____day of _____, 20 ____, at ____o'clock, by each in person, a copy of this Citation together with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original delivering to the within named petition, having first indorsed on same the date of delivery. -----000000-----**OFFICER'S RETURN** FOR CORPORATIONS Received this Citation the ________, day of ________, 20 ___at _______o'clock ___.M. Executed at _______, within the County of ______, State of _______, on the ________ day of ________, 20 _____, at _______o'clock ____.M. by summoning the within named Corporation, by delivering to President - Vice President - Registered Agent - in person, of the said a true copy of this citation together with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original petition, having first indorsed on same the date of delivery. -----000000-----To certify which witness by my hand. The distance actually traveled by me in serving such process was _____ miles and my fees are as follows: Sheriff For Serving Citation County of For Mileage State of For Notary Total Fees (Must be verified if served outside the State of Texas) State of County of before me this Signed and sworn to me by the said day of ______, zo_____, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Seal

State & County of

FORM NO. 353-4—CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

MAIL ATTY (COH)

MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS To:

BY SERVING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE HIGHWAY AND

PUBLIC TRANSPIRATION COMMISSION

125 E 11TH STREET AUSTIN, TX 78701-2483

CITATION

No.: DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS VS. ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, ET AL

ISSUED ON THIS THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2016

> **FELICIA PITRE** Clerk District Courts, Dallas County, Texas

By ARIEANA BAHENA, Deputy

Attorney for: Plaintiff FRANK W ROBERTSON JIM S ADLER & ASSOCIATES 12605 EAST FREEWAY **SUITE 400 HOUSTON TX 77015** 713-335-1032

GREETINGS:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Your answer should be addressed to the clerk of the 191st District Court at 600 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas 75202.

Said PLAINTIFF being MATTHEW HIGGINS

Filed in said Court 17th day of May, 2016 against

ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a ROAD STAR TRUCKING and MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS

For suit, said suit being numbered DC-16-05944 the nature of which demand is as follows:

Suit On MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT etc.

as shown on said petition REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE, a copy of which accompanies this citation. If this citation is not served, it shall be returned unexecuted.

WITNESS: FELICIA PITRE, Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County Texas.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court at office on this the 23rd day of May, 2016

ATTEST: FELICIA PITRE

Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County, Texas

DALLAS COUNTY CONSTANT

TRES PAED

EXHIBIT 6

OFFICER'S RETURN FOR INDIVIDUALS

		FOR INDIVIDUALS		
Cause No. DC-16-05944				
Court No: 191st District Court				
Style: MATTHEW HIGGINS				
vs. ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA				
Received this Citation the _	day of, State of	, 20ato'clock. Ex, on theday of	xecuted at, within the County of, 20, ato'clock, by	of Plaintiffs original
delivering to the within named		each in person, a copy of	of this Citation together with the accompanying copy of	of Flamini 5 Original
petition, having first indorsed on sam	ne the date of delivery.	000000		
Received this Citation the	, State of		ecuted at, within the County of f, at o'clock _	M. by summoning
the within named Corporation,	by delive			
President	t - Vice President - Registered A	Agent - in person, of the said		
a true copy of this citation t	ogether with the accompanying	copy of Plaintiff's original petition, have	ving first indorsed on same the date of delivery.	
The distance actually traveled by me For Serving Citation \$ For Mileage \$ For Notary \$ Total Fees \$	Sher Cour	nty ofe of		
(Must be verified if served outside to State of	y the said	before me this_hich witness my hand and seal of office.		

Seal

State & County of

FORM NO. 353-4—CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

MAIL ATTY (COH)

ROAD STAR CARRIER INC D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING To:

BY SERVING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE HIGHWAY AND

PUBLIC TRANSPIRATION COMMISSION

125 E 11TH STREET **AUSTIN, TX 78701-2483**

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Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court at office on this the 23rd day of May, 2016

ATTEST: FELICIA PITRE

Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County, Texas

CITATION

No.: DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS VS. ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, ET AL

ISSUED ON THIS THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2016

> **FELICIA PITRE** Clerk District Courts, Dallas County, Texas

By ARIEANA BAHENA, Deputy

Attorney for: Plaintiff FRANK W ROBERTSON JIM S ADLER & ASSOCIATES 12605 EAST FREEWAY **SUITE 400 HOUSTON TX 77015** 713-335-1032

DALLAS COUNTY CONSTANT TEES NOT

EXHIBIT 7

OFFICER'S RETURN FOR INDIVIDUALS

Cause No. DC-16-05944 Court No: 191st District Court Style: MATTHEW HIGGINS ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, et al Received this Citation the ______day of _____, 20___at ____o'clock. Executed at _____, within the County of _____, State of _____, on the _____day of _____, 20___, at ____o'clock, by _____ each in person, a copy of this Citation together with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original delivering to the within named petition, having first indorsed on same the date of delivery. -----000000-----**OFFICER'S RETURN** FOR CORPORATIONS Received this Citation the ________, day of ________, 20 ___at _______o'clock ___.M. Executed at _______, within the County of ______, State of _______, on the ________ day of ________, 20 _____, at _______o'clock ____.M. by summoning the within named Corporation, ______ by delivering to President - Vice President - Registered Agent - in person, of the said a true copy of this citation together with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original petition, having first indorsed on same the date of delivery. -----000000-----To certify which witness by my hand. The distance actually traveled by me in serving such process was _____ miles and my fees are as follows: Sheriff For Serving Citation County of For Mileage State of For Notary Total Fees (Must be verified if served outside the State of Texas) State of County of before me this Signed and sworn to me by the said_____ day of ______, zo_____, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Seal

State & County of





Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Document 1-5 Filed 07/07/16 Page 19 of 34 PageID 35 Dianne Coffey

FILED DALLAS COUNTY 6/29/2016 3:57:43 PM FELICIA PITRE DISTRICT CLERK

FORM NO. 353-4—CITATION THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS

BY SERVING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE HIGHWAY AND

PUBLIC TRANSPIRATION COMMISSION

125 E 11TH STREET AUSTIN, TX 78701-2483 OKIDALITA TROPIED

GREETINGS:

You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10 o'clock a.m. of the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

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Said PLAINTIFF being MATTHEW HIGGINS

Filed in said Court 17th day of May, 2016 against

ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a ROAD STAR TRUCKING and MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS

For suit, said suit being numbered DC-16-05944 the nature of which demand is as follows:

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as shown on said petition REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE, a copy of which accompanies this citation. If this citation is not served, it shall be returned unexecuted.

WITNESS: FELICIA PITRE, Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County Texas.

Given under my hand and the Seal of said Court at office on this the 23rd day of May, 2016

ATTEST: FELICIA PITRE

Clerk of the District Courts of Dallas, County, Texas

ARIEANA BAHENA

SOUNTY, TELY SOUND OF THE SOUND

MAIL ATTY (COH)

CITATION

No.: DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS
VS.
ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD
STAR TRUCKING, ET AL

ISSUED
ON THIS THE 23RD DAY OF MAY, 2016

FELICIA PITRE Clerk District Courts, Dallas County, Texas

By ARIEANA BAHENA, Deputy

Attorney for: Plaintiff
FRANK W ROBERTSON
JIM S ADLER & ASSOCIATES
12605 EAST FREEWAY
SUITE 400
HOUSTON TX 77015
713-335-1032

OFFICER'S RETURN

Cause No. DC-16-05944	
Court No: 191st District Court	
Style: MATTHEW HIGGINS	
VS.	
ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING, et al	
Received this Citation the State of , on the day of , 20 day of ,	, within the County of
, State of, on theday of, 20	_, ato'clock, by
delivering to the within named each in person, a copy of this Citation together the second se	her with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original
petition, having first indorsed on same the date of delivery	
OFFICER'S RETURN	
FOR CORPORATIONS	
Received this Citation theday of, 20 76 ato'clockM. Executed at	, within the County of
, State of, on theday of,	20, ato'clockM. by summoning
the within named Corporation, by delivering to	
President - Vice President - Registered Agent - in person, of the said	
a true copy of this citation together with the accompanying copy of Plaintiff's original petition, having first indorsed on	same the date of delivery.
The distance actually traveled by me in serving such process was miles and my fees are as follows: To certify w	hich witness by my hand.
For Serving Citation \$ Sheriff	men withess by my hand.
For Mileage \$ County of	
For Notary \$ State of	
Total Fees \$By	
(Must be verified if served outside the State of Texas) State of	
County of	
Signed and sworn to me by the said before me this	
day of, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.	
Seal	State & County of

Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Document 1-5 Filed 07/07/16 Page 21 of 34 PageID 37 RETURN OF SERVICE

Cause No. DC-16-05944

In The 191st Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas

MATTHEW HIGGINS Plaintiff

V.

ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. d/b/a ROAD STAR TRUCKING and MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS Defendant

Came to hand on June 08, 2016, at 04:00 PM.

Executed at 125 E. 11th Street, 6th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, within the County of Travis at 11:42 AM on June 09, 2016, by delivering to the within named:

MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS,

by delivering to the Chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, by and through the Texas Department of Transportation's Office of General Counsel, by delivering to its designated agent, ALICIA RAMON-KANE, a true copy of this Citation together with Plaintiff's Original Petition, Jury Demand, Requests for Disclosure, and Rule 1934.7 Notice, having first endorsed upon such copy of such process the date of delivery, and tendering the \$25 Statutory Fee.

I certify that I am approved by the Supreme Court of Texas, Misc. Docket No. 05-9122 under rule 103 and 536(a) of the TRCP to deliver citations and other notices from any District, County, and Justice Courts in and for the State of Texas. I am competent to make this oath; I am not less than 18 years of age, I am not a party to the above-referenced cause, I have not been convicted of a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude, and I am not interested in the outcome of the above-referenced cause.

 R_{V}

Jeff Keyton SCH-735,

Exp: 7/31/2017

VERIFICATION

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF TRAVIS

BEFORE ME, A NOTARY PUBLIC, on this day personally appeared Jeff Keyton, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document and, being by me first duly sworn, declared that the statements therein contained are true and correct.

Given under my hand and seal of office this June 09, 2016.

NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF TEXAS

16-020720/Higgins

DISTRICT CLERK

CAUSE NO. DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
	§	
	§	
vs.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A	§	
ROAD STAR TRUCKING AND	§	191 st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA	§	

DEFENDANT MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

Defendant MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA ("Defendant") files this Original Answer to Plaintiff Matthew Higgins' Original Petition and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

Ι

ORIGINAL ANSWER

A. General Denial

1. Pursuant to Rule 92 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendant generally denies the claims and allegations in Plaintiff's Original Petition and any amendment thereto.

B. Affirmative Defenses

- 2. Defendant would show, that the injuries and damages of the Plaintiff, if any, made the basis of this lawsuit, were solely caused by the acts or omissions of a party or parties other than Defendant and over whom it possessed no right of control, and for whom Defendant is not responsible at law.
- 3. Defendant asserts that Plaintiff's own acts or omissions caused or contributed to Plaintiff's alleged damages.
- 4. Defendant further and alternatively asserts that Plaintiff's injuries and damages, if any, were not caused by Defendant, but were the result of an unavoidable accident.

- 5. Defendant further asserts that Plaintiff failed to mitigate his damages, if any, and any damages awarded should be reduced by the amount Plaintiff could reasonably have avoided.
- 6. Pursuant to Tex.Civ.Prac. & Rem. Code §33.001, et seq., upon submission of this case to a fact-finder, Defendant is entitled to a submission of the percentage of responsibility, if any, of Plaintiff and/or other potential parties or responsible third parties for the damages claimed.
- 7. Defendant further asserts that this Defendant is or may be entitled to certain credits and/or off-sets pursuant to the common law of the State of Texas and/or Chapter 32 and/or Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code for any settlements by the Plaintiff.
- 8. Defendant further answers that this Defendant is entitled to contribution and/or indemnity from any Plaintiff, Defendant, or third-party Defendant now or hereinafter named in this lawsuit as provided under the common law of the State of Texas and/or pursuant to Chapter 32 and/or Chapter 33 of the Texas Civil Practices & Remedies Code.
- 9. Defendant further asserts that recovery of medical or health care expenses incurred is limited to the amount actually paid or incurred by or on behalf of the claimant Tex. CIV. PRAC. & REM CODE §41.0105. "Incurred" has been defined as "become liable to pay." *See; Keever v. Finlan*, 988 S.W.2d 300, 308 (Tex.App.—Dallas 1999, pet. denied); *Beasley v. Peters*, 870 S.W.2d 191, 196 (Tex.App.—Amarillo 1994, no writ); Comm. On Pattern Jury Charges, State Bar of Tex., Pattern Jury Charges Malpractice, Premises & Products PJC 80.2 cmt. (2003).
- 10. Defendant further asserts that, Pursuant to Tex. Civ. PRAC. & REM CODE \$18.091(a), Plaintiff must present evidence to prove he has suffered lost earnings, loss of earning

capacity, or loss of contributions of a pecuniary value in the form of a net loss after reduction for income tax payments or unpaid tax liability pursuant to any federal income tax law. Defendant hereby moves the Court to instruct the jury as to whether any recovery for compensatory damages is subject to federal or state income taxes in accordance with Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem Code §18.091(b).

- 11. Defendant further asserts that the calculation of post-judgment interest is governed by Tex. Fin. Code §304.003(c).
- 12. Defendant further asserts that pre-judgment interest is disallowed on future damages. Tex. Fin. Code §304.1045.

C. Reservation of Right to Amend

13. Defendant reserves the right to supplement and/or amend this Original Answer.

II

EXEMPLARY DAMAGES CAP

14. If exemplary damages are awarded to the Plaintiff, Defendant intends to invoke the cap in the Damages Act, Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Chapter 41, which restrict and limits the Plaintiff's claim for exemplary damages.

Ш

REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE

15. Under the authority of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 194, Defendant requests that Plaintiff disclose, within 30 days of the service of this request, the information or material described in Rule 194.2.

IV

JURY DEMAND

16. Defendant respectfully demands a trial by jury, and tenders the appropriate fee.

NOTICE PURSUANT TO TEXAS RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 193.7

17. Defendant hereby invokes Rule 193.7 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and gives notice of Defendant's intent to use any and/or all documents produced in discovery by any party to this cause as evidence in any pretrial proceedings and/or the trial of this cause.

VI PRAVI

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA requests that the Court deny Plaintiff's claims, enter judgment in Defendant's favor, that Defendant be discharged with their costs, and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which Defendant may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER LLP

Michael S. Beckelman State Bar No. 24042401 909 Fannin Street, Suite 3300

Houston, Texas 77010 Telephone: (713) 353-2000

Facsimile: (713) 785-7780

Michael.Beckelman@wilsonelser.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served under Rules 21 and 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and/or email on July 5, 2016, upon the following:

Frank W. Robertson Michael Gomez Jim Adler & Associates 12605 East Freeway, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77015 713-335-1032 713-335-1018 (fax)

Michael S. Beckelman

DISTRICT CLERK

CAUSE NO. DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
	§	
	§	
	§	
vs.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A	§	
ROAD STAR TRUCKING AND	§	191 st JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MIROSLAW SKOCZYLA	§	

<u>DEFENDANT ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING'S</u> <u>ORIGINAL ANSWER</u>

Defendant ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING ("Defendant") files this Original Answer to Plaintiff Matthew Higgins' Original Petition and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

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- 9. Defendant further asserts that recovery of medical or health care expenses incurred is limited to the amount actually paid or incurred by or on behalf of the claimant Tex. CIV. PRAC. & REM CODE §41.0105. "Incurred" has been defined as "become liable to pay." *See; Keever v. Finlan*, 988 S.W.2d 300, 308 (Tex.App.—Dallas 1999, pet. denied); *Beasley v. Peters*, 870 S.W.2d 191, 196 (Tex.App.—Amarillo 1994, no writ); Comm. On Pattern Jury Charges, State Bar of Tex., Pattern Jury Charges Malpractice, Premises & Products PJC 80.2 cmt. (2003).

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VI

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Defendant ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING requests that the Court deny Plaintiff's claims, enter judgment in Defendant's favor, that Defendant be discharged with their costs, and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which Defendant may show itself justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER LLP

Michael S. Beckelman State Bar No. 24042401 909 Fannin Street, Suite 330

909 Fannin Street, Suite 3300 Houston, Texas 77010

Telephone: (713) 353-2000 Facsimile: (713) 785-7780

Michael.Beckelman@wilsonelser.com

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT ROAD STAR CARRIER, INC. D/B/A ROAD STAR TRUCKING

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing instrument was served under Rules 21 and 21a, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and/or email on July 5, 2016, upon the following:

Frank W. Robertson Michael Gomez Jim Adler & Associates 12605 East Freeway, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77015 713-335-1032 713-335-1018 (fax)

Michael S. Rackalman

Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Docu Page 32 of 34 PageID 48

CASE NO. DC-16-05944

MATTHEW HIGGINS

ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR

TRUCKING, et al

Location: 191st District Court

Judicial Officer: SLAUGHTER, GENA

Filed on: 05/17/2016

CASE INFORMATION

Case Type:

MOTOR VEHICLE

ACCIDENT

PARTY INFORMATION

PLAINTIFF

HIGGINS, MATTHEW

Lead Attorneys

ROBERTSON, FRANK W

Retained

713-335-1032(W)

DEFENDANT

ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING

BECKELMAN, MICHAEL

Retained

713-353-2000(W)

SKOCZYLAS, MIROSLAW

BECKELMAN, MICHAEL

Retained 713-353-2000(W)

DATE	EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT	INDEX
05/17/2016	NEW CASE FILED (OCA) - CIVIL	
05/17/2016	ORIGINAL PETITION PLAINTIFF???S ORIGINAL PETITION	
. 05/17/2016	ISSUE CITATION COMM OF INS OR SOS	
05/17/2016	JURY DEMAND Party: PLAINTIFF HIGGINS, MATTHEW	
05/23/2016	CITATION SOS/COI/COH/HAG ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING Served: 06/09/2016 SKOCZYLAS, MIROSLAW Served: 06/09/2016 COH MAIL ATTY-AB	
06/29/2016	RETURN OF SERVICE ROAD STAR CARRIER IN DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING	
06/29/2016	RETURN OF SERVICE MIROSLAW SKOCZYLAS	
07/05/2016	ORIGINAL ANSWER - GENERAL DENIAL Party: DEFENDANT SKOCZYLAS, MIROSLAW DEFENDANTS	
07/05/2016	ORIGINAL ANSWER - GENERAL DENIAL Party: DEFENDANT ROAD STAR CARRIER INC DBA ROAD STAR TRUCKING DEFENDANTS	
DATE	FINANCIAL INFORMATION	

FELICIA PITRE, DISTRICT CLERK

Case 3:16-cv-01981-L Documents 55 Filed 07/07/16 Page 33 of 34 PageID 49 Case No. DC-16-05944

	PLAINTIFF HIGGINS, MATTHEW Total Charges Total Payments and Credits Balance Due as of 7/6/2016		381.03 381.03 0.00
05/18/2016 05/18/2016	Charge CREDIT CARD - Receipt # 31300-2016-DCLK TEXFILE (DC)	PLAINTIFF HIGGINS, MATTHEW PLAINTIFF HIGGINS, MATTHEW	381.03 (381.03)

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	STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS
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STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF DALLAS

I, FELICIA PITRE, Clerk of the District of Dallas County, Texas, do hereby certify that I have compared this instrument to be a true and correct copy of the original as appears on record in my office.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of sald Court, at office in Dallas, Texas, this _____ day of ______ A.D., ________.

FELICIA PITRE, DISTRICT CLERK DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

y Milly

Deputy